

## **Arizona Office**

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Working to protect and restore Western Watersheds and Wildlife

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Freedom of Information and Privacy Act Officer fwhq foia@fws.gov

October 24, 2019

## FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT REQUEST

Dear U.S. Fish and Wildlife Services FOIA Officer,

I am writing today to request U.S. Fish and Wildlife Services (USFWS) records related to confirmed and probable wolf kills on any land, private or public, managed by any agency within the States of Arizona and New Mexico. On behalf of Western Watersheds Project, I am requesting any and all records from January 1, 2018, through date of response to this request.

Pursuant to the Act (5 U.S.C. § 522), I am requesting:

Any database that is a comprehensive collection of incidents related to Mexican wolves on any private or public lands managed by any agency in Arizona and New Mexico that have been investigated by Wildlife Services or any other agency.

This request includes all depredation records, including reports from Interagency Field Team program biologists that contribute records regarding wolf depredations in Arizona and New Mexico.

I am requesting any and all records from January 1, 2018, through date of response to this request.

By database, we are referring to the database Paul Greer, the Arizona Game and Fish Department Mexican wolf Interagency Field Team Leader, told Western Watersheds Project to request via a FOIA request to USFWS. Mr. Greer referred to this database as the "incident database" but we are asking for any database that collects this information.

I would prefer to receive the document(s) via email at cyndi@westernwatersheds.org or in an electronic format. Notifications regarding this request may also be delivered electronically, in the interest of saving money and paper.

Western Watersheds Project hereby requests a fee waiver pursuant to 7 C.F.R. Appendix A

- 1. The subject of the request pertains to the management of the Mexican gray wolf in Arizona and New Mexico, a federally-listed Endangered Species.
- 2. This information will help the general public better understand the management of the Mexican gray wolf, the locations of depredation events, and the subsequent actions of USFWS.
- 3. The information will be distributed to a reasonably broad audience of interested parties. We maintain an active website, newsletter, and media presence and we generate substantial attention when we make agency management documents available. Because we have a significant interest in the Mexican gray wolf, this information will be of interest to many of our staff and members.
- 4. The requested records contribute significantly to public understanding by clarifying the information used in the decision-making regarding prosecution regarding this killing.
- 5. We have absolutely no commercial interest in this information and make this request solely to have access to this information. We are a non-profit 501(c)3 corporation.
- 6. The information we request is solely for the enhancement of public understanding. We are well equipped to distribute this information and have a long track record of doing so. Because we have no commercial interest in this information, it is clear that the fulfillment of this request is in the public interest.

Thank you for your time and attention to this FOIA request. Please contact me if you have any questions regarding this request.

Sincerely,

Cyndi C. Tuell

Western Watersheds Project Arizona and New Mexico Director

Cyrdi C. Tuell

cyndi@westernwatersheds.org